

State of Washington
Department of Ecology
Yakima Washington

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION FOR CHANGE)
FILED BY ASTON IRRIGATION ASSN. INC.)
REQUESTING TO CHANGE THE PLACE OF USE AND) Emergency Drought
POINT OF DIVERSION OF A PORTION OF THE WATER) Change Authorization
USE UNDER WATER RIGHT CERTIFICATE S4-01245C)
)

In accordance with the provisions of RCW 43.83B.405, on March 14, 2001, it was ordered and determined by the Director of the Department of Ecology that the State of Washington is under drought conditions. In accordance with the provisions of WAC 176-166-060, the Department of Ecology is under the terms of this Order, issuing an EMERGENCY DROUGHT CHANGE AUTHORIZATION. The intent of this authorization is to alleviate hardships and reduce the burdens on water users arising from the drought conditions.

Background

On June 4, 2001, Aston Irrigation Association, Inc. (AIA), filed an application to transfer a portion of an existing water right in Okanogan County to property served by the AIA. The water right on the AIA property is subject to interruption under the Okanogan River Basin Plan, WAC 173-549.

Certificate S4-01245C

Certificate S4-01245C, with a priority date of September 19, 1968 was issued to John, Helen and Dave Mundinger and authorizes a diversion on the Okanogan River located in Government Lot 3, Section 20, T. 34 N., R. 27 E.W.M. The water right is now held by the Vista Vu Water Users Association. The right allows the diversion of 3.2 cfs, 641 acre-feet per year for the irrigation of 163 acres. Some apple orchards have been taken out of production and it is proposed that 80 acres of irrigation be transferred from Vista Vu to be used on property served by the Aston Irrigation Association. Vista Vu will not irrigate the 80 acres for the balance of the irrigation season.

The point of diversion for the transferred portion would be the existing diversion of the Aston Irrigation Association located approximately 2½ miles downstream.

Aston Irrigation Association Property and Permit S4-24234P

The AIA property is located approximately 1½ miles east of the town of Omak, in Okanogan County. Surface Water Permit S4-24234P authorizes the diversion of 8.9 cfs, 1600 ac-ft/year for the irrigation of 400 acres. This right is provisioned with instream flows for the Okanogan River. Based upon water supply forecasts for the 2001 irrigation season, this permit will be regulated in favor of minimum instream flows for extended periods.

The source of this right is a diversion point on the Okanogan River located within the NW¼ of Section 31, T. 34 N., R. 27 E.W.M.

A map showing the place of use where the 80 acres of transferred right will be used was submitted along with the application.

Conclusions and Decision

Authorizing these changes of water rights down river along the Okanogan River will not impair existing water rights.

This **DROUGHT EMERGENCY CHANGE DECISION** authorizes the transfer of 80 acres of irrigation under Surface Water Certificate S4-01245C to property in Okanogan County described as follows:

The W½ of Section 30, and Aston Estates being within Government Lots 2 and 3 of Section 31, T. 34 N., R. 27 E.W.M.

A total of 1.6 cfs and 208.9 acre-feet are authorized for use on the property. This is based on an instantaneous rate of 0.02 cfs per acre. The annual quantity is based on a crop requirement of 23.5 inches of water per acre for pasture/turf for the period of June through October, and includes an efficiency factor of 75%.

The point of diversion is the existing pump station on the Okanogan River located within NW¼ of Section 31, T. 34 N., R. 27 E.W.M.

The following provisions shall apply to this change authorization:

A measuring device approved by the Department of Ecology must be installed prior to use of the water.

Bi-weekly (every 2 weeks) readings of the measuring device shall be recorded and shall include the date and time of measurement, water flow rate, volume of water, and the name of the person taking the meter readings. Within 30-days of the end of this irrigation season, the permittee shall send a copy of this data to the Central Regional Office.

A map of the new place of use showing the specific 80 acres that will not be irrigated as a result of this temporary emergency drought authorization shall be submitted to Ecology's Central Regional Office within 15 days of the date of receipt of this authorization.

This drought emergency authorization expires on November 1, 2001.

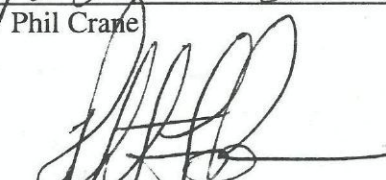
REPORT BY:


Phil Crane

DATE:

6/25/01

APPROVED BY:


Robert F. Barwin, Section Manager

DATE:

6/25/2001

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Enclosure(s):